

# U.S. CONGRESSMAN JOHN LINDER

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## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

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# U.S. CONGRESSMAN JOHN LINDER

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## BIOGRAPHY

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A former dentist and businessman, John Linder was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992. Congressman Linder represents Georgia's Seventh District, which includes Gwinnett, Bartow, Cherokee, Paulding and Forsyth Counties.

John believes that individuals can make better decisions for their own families than the federal government. One of his most popular pieces of legislation is the FairTax. This revolutionary bill would abolish all federal income taxes, including payroll, self-employment, income, capital gains, corporate and death taxes, and replace them all with one simple, straightforward federal sales tax. The FairTax will give the American people control over their own lives again by allowing them to keep 100% of their paychecks, as well as shielding their personal information from government bureaucrats.

John serves on the powerful House Rules Committee. Virtually every piece of legislation must be reviewed by the Rules Committee, which establishes the guidelines for every Congressional debate. He is also Chairman of the Rules Subcommittee on Technology and the House.

John has also been appointed to be one of only nine members who sit on the Committee on House Administration. This prestigious committee has jurisdiction over all administrative functions of the House.

Prior to running for Congress in 1990, John Linder served seven terms in Georgia's General Assembly, where he was a spokesman for small business and families. He opposed the tax-and-spend policies of the Democrat-dominated Georgia legislature. He introduced several measures for reform of the legislature, such as requiring disclosure of lobbyist expenditures and mandating competitive bidding for legislative procurement. John also fought to open committee meetings to the public and to return administrative authority over public schools back to local communities. In the process, he helped build the Republican Party and a two-party system of government in Georgia.

John later put this political expertise to use as Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee (1996-98), where he worked to maintain the Republican majority in the House.

Born September 9, 1942, in Deer River, Minnesota, John earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1964 as well as a doctorate in dental surgery in 1967. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1967 to 1969. Upon completion of his military service, John moved to Georgia in 1969 where he began his private dental practice.

Expanding his interests beyond dentistry, in 1977 John founded Linder Financial Corporation, an asset-based lending institution providing financial assistance to small businesses throughout the South. He served as President of Linder Financial Corp. until his election to Congress in 1992.

Married for 39 years, John and his wife, Lynne, have two adult children and four grandchildren.

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## BIOGRAPHY AT A GLANCE

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<b>Born:</b>	September 9, 1942 / Deer River, Minnesota
<b>High School:</b>	Deer River High School (1960)
<b>College:</b>	University of Minnesota, B.S. (1964)
<b>Dental School:</b>	University of Minnesota, D.D.S. (1967)
<b>Military Service:</b>	Captain, United States Air Force (1967-1969) Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas
<b>Dental Practice:</b>	U.S. Air Force (1967-69) Private dental practice, Atlanta, Georgia (1969-1982)
<b>Financial Career:</b>	President and founder of Linder Financial Corporation, an asset-based lending institution providing financial assistance to small businesses throughout the South. Established in 1977; full-time career: 1982-1992
<b>State Legislature:</b>	Representative – Georgia General Assembly 44 <sup>th</sup> District, Northern DeKalb County Seven two-year terms: 1975-1980 and 1983-1990
<b>U.S. Congress:</b>	Elected to 103 <sup>rd</sup> Congress Represents 7 <sup>th</sup> District of Georgia
<b>Residence:</b>	Atlanta, Georgia
<b>Family:</b>	Married for 39 years to the former Lynne Peterson; two adult children and four grandchildren.

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## ON THE ISSUES

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### Energy

Over the last 30 years, oil consumption in the United States has increased dramatically, and demand for other fuels is also growing at astronomical rates. As long as our population continues to grow, our energy needs will also grow. We must increase our domestic energy supply to meet this growing demand.

Currently, 60 percent of the oil consumed by America is imported from foreign nations. Our growing dependence on foreign oil threatens our national security and increases the influence that foreign leaders may hold over our nation. It is inexcusable that we place our national security in jeopardy while plentiful resources lie hidden under our own soil. We must find new domestic sources of oil and other fossil fuels.

We must also encourage “cleaner” technologies for creating energy and alternative energy sources. I support the efforts of businesses to employ cleaner manufacturing methods and to sell energy-efficient products. I also support research into renewable fuel technologies, like hydrogen, which leaves no noxious pollutants as a by-product of combustion. Research into new, cleaner products and technologies is futile, however, without consumer demand for such products. The onus of making efficient products more prevalent across the United States ultimately rests with consumers. It is the individual American citizens who must decide to buy the products that use cleaner, more efficient technologies.

We must also strive to use energy wisely. The onus of conservation, however, also rests with the American public. The federal government should not be involved in regulating every aspect of people’s lives and consumption. Conservation depends on the consumer, not the government.

I will continue to support exploration for new fuel sources, research into more efficient technologies and alternative fuel sources, and conservation practices. The decision to truly meet our energy crisis head-on, however, rests with the individual choices that each and every American citizen makes every day.

## Defense

One of the few Constitutionally-prescribed duties of the federal government is to support our national defense. The Cold War may be over, but we now face new threats from all corners of the world—as became all too evident on September 11, 2001. We must never revert to the hollow military forces of the 1970's. At that time, one third of our planes were unable to fly for lack of spare parts. One third of our ships were in dry dock. Many of our soldiers are still working with outdated equipment and technology. That is simply unacceptable.

President George W. Bush took the oath of office knowing that force modernization, personnel retention, and quality of life among our service men and women had been undermined in recent years. This President and Congress have worked together diligently to provide the funding and leadership that will maintain a strong national defense. I will continue to fight for the necessary funding to keep our forces the highest-trained, best-equipped, and most respected on the face of the earth.

Our country owes a great deal to the men and women who faithfully and selflessly devote themselves to protecting our country. And this respect should also be extended to our service men and women long after they have left the battlefields. Our veterans deserve the best health care available, and I will continue to work to see that they receive whatever physical and mental health services they need. We must maintain the best-equipped, best-educated force in the world, able to preserve what so many have given their lives to achieve: freedom and peace.

## Crime

After a decade of growth, the incidence of violent crime in America suddenly began to drop in the mid-1990s, due to our strong economy, changing demographics, expanded imprisonment, and policing innovations.

However, we still operate under a revolving-door system of criminal justice where violent criminals too often are on the streets after serving only a fraction of their sentence. Overcrowded prisons force us to release criminals before they have served their time, and the endless appeals process for death row inmates has greatly diminished the death penalty's deterrence.

While quadrupling the number of people in correctional facilities over the past 30 years has played a major role in reducing crime, America's burgeoning prison system has done a poor job of ensuring that convicts leave the prison gates ready to lead productive lives.

America releases 600,000 prisoners each year, does little to prepare them for work or school and—not surprisingly—re-arrests most of them within three years. Few released convicts find full-time work and many abandon spouses and children. People who have already spent time in prison or jail move back to some of America's poorest neighborhoods to terrorize neighbors who can ill afford the costs of crime.

This must stop. We must keep violent offenders behind bars, and we must also make sure that the criminals we release are morally, intellectually, and financially capable of living legitimate and peaceful lives.

I have consistently supported legislation that ensures stiff sentencing and adequate funding for law enforcement and prisons. I have also long believed that we should convert closed military bases into prison facilities. And, once prisoners are there, they should be put to work, where they will not only learn the value of hard work but they will also acquire skills they can use once they are released.

We need to send criminals the message that crime will be punished. Only when criminals truly fear the law will they think twice about their actions, and law-abiding citizens have confidence in the safety of their own homes.

## The Role of Government

Thomas Jefferson once said, “The care of human life and liberty and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government.” In the *Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith also taught us that there are three legitimate uses of public money: the upholding of justice, the preservation of public monuments and infrastructure, and the maintenance of a military defense.

Unfortunately, our federal government has strayed so far from its original ideals that it now seems to create more problems than it solves. The more the government has gotten involved in running the local school systems, the worse the schools have become. The more the government tries to regulate private industries (like electricity), the higher the prices and the lower the supply levels have become.

Our government was never meant to be an elite and omnipotent force; it is supposed to be government of, by, and for the people. We are a nation that has a government—not the other way around—and this makes us special among the nations of the earth. Our government has no powers except those granted to it by the people. At the same time, all of us together, in and out of government, must bear the burden of improving our nation, our neighborhoods, and ourselves. And the solutions we seek must be equitable, with no one group singled out to pay a higher price.

I believe the American people deserve more freedom and less government. The Republican Congress believes in the Ronald Reagan adage that it is not the function of government to bestow happiness upon the American people; rather it is the function of government to give the American people the opportunity to achieve prosperity and happiness for themselves. We need to ensure that American families and communities have that opportunity by returning more power, money, and control back to them.

## Veterans

As America sends her young men and women abroad to defend this country from the threats of terrorism, it is imperative that we take the time to realize the important sacrifice and responsibility placed on the shoulders of those brave individuals. Undoubtedly, we cannot possibly imagine our country without the freedoms and liberties we hold so dear. It is only because of our veterans, their service to this country and the giving of their lives, that we are as great a nation as we are now. Their service should be an example for all Americans to follow.

Over the past few years, Congress has taken enormous steps to increase its support for our veterans. It has worked diligently to increase funding of the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) and to increase health care for veterans. While I believe our accomplishments have been significant, these efforts pale in comparison to those given by our men and women in uniform.

While Congress and this nation are giving back more each year to our veterans, our work is far from over. The VA still lacks the ability to fully treat sick or disabled veterans. Some veterans have yet to collect on the benefits they were promised. As a former Captain in the U.S. Air Force, I have made it a priority to ensure that our nation's veterans are given every benefit for their sacrifice. I will not tolerate anything less than the absolute best treatment for these Americans. We must never forget those men and women who risked their lives to defend our freedoms then, just as we must remember to support those who carry the torch of freedom now.



## The FairTax

I am the primary sponsor of The FairTax. The FairTax is one of the most exciting proposals to ever reach the American people. It offers long-needed tax relief – in the form of lower prices, nearly nonexistent compliance costs, and the ability to choose how much to spend in taxes – to all Americans, while eliminating the income tax and allowing Americans to keep 100 percent of their paycheck.

The FairTax will dramatically reduce prices, protect and ensure funding of Social Security and Medicare, empower the low-income earners, and put choice and control back into the hands of every American. All the crucial elements are in place: a public that is eager and ready for a fairer tax system, and a Congress willing to seriously consider genuine tax reform. To be competitive in the next century and to renew the American dream, we must change the way we fund our national government.

### **The FairTax Act:**

- Repeals the all corporate and individual income taxes, payroll taxes, self-employment taxes, capital gains taxes, estate taxes and gift taxes.
- Imposes a revenue-neutral national sales tax on all new goods and services at the point of final purchase for consumption. Business-to-business transactions and used products (which have already been taxed) are not subject to the sales tax.
- Rebates the sales tax on all spending up to the poverty level.

### **Results of the FairTax:**

- Dramatically reduce the costs of goods and services by 20 to 30 percent.
- Allow you to keep 100 percent of your paycheck, pension, and Social Security payments.
- Gross Domestic Product will increase by almost 10.5 percent in the first year after enactment.
- Compliance costs would decrease by 90 percent.
- Real investment would initially increase by 76 percent relative to the investment that would be made under present law. While this increase would gradually decline, it remains 15 percent higher than under the existing tax structure.
- Exports would increase by 26 percent initially and would remain more than 13 percent above the level under the current tax system.
- Real wages will increase.
- Increases incentives to work by as much as 20 percent in many households, leading to higher economic growth and efficiency.

- Interest rates will fall 25 to 35 percent.

If you would like view the new FairTax PowerPoint slide presentation or consider the significant benefits of the FairTax in greater detail, please take some time to visit the “FairTax” section of my website.

## Technology

The United States has taken its place as the leader in technology innovation across the globe. In addition, the State of Georgia has established itself both as one of the leading technology growth states and as a leader in the education of information technology workers, including computer science, engineering, programming, and system analysis. While innovations have driven companies to create new products and leading edge technologies to propel tremendous growth in the technology sector, we must ensure that these companies are free to compete in this new marketplace.

When I first ran for Congress, I sought to change the system, reduce the overwhelming burden of taxation and limit onerous regulations. In Congress, our economic goal must be to encourage competition that produces innovative technologies for every American household and provides benefits to the American consumer in the form of lower prices and enhanced services. Those nations that have achieved the most impressive growth in the past have not been those with rigid government controls, nor those that are the most affluent in natural resources. The most extraordinary development has come in those nations that have put their trust in the power and potential of the marketplace.

By keeping taxes low and reducing burdensome regulations, Congress can help provide the kind of economic landscape that will assist existing companies – and companies that currently exist only in the minds of innovative dreamers – to continue to bring new products and a new way of life that will amaze every American.

We must also understand the ways that technology can change our society. For example, the growth of the Internet has brought changes that continue to revolutionize our personal and financial interactions online. But, with these changes must come the consideration of larger ethical issues such as the matter of privacy. Each time we buy a book online or transfer funds at an ATM, we are reminded of how much of our lives is accessible without a signature. In these cases, Americans have often decided that the ease and flexibility offered by these services far outweigh the potential for fraud or error. When the information at stake is personal and the government is the agent, however, many people begin to have second thoughts. I believe these concerns are well-founded, and regardless of the situation, the government must convincingly justify any changes in its handling of the personal information of American citizens.

Finally, the growth of information technology has begun to play a critical part of managing government at the federal level and bringing the voice of the American people closer to the floor of Congress. Congress today relies heavily on information technology to improve the efficiency of its operations, facilitate the production of legislative documents, and provide public access to important legislative information. As Chairman of the House Rules Subcommittee on Technology and the House of Representatives, I will continue to play a key role in measures related to the impact of technology on the process and procedures of the House and issues relating to the modernization of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Congress.

## War on Terrorism

A horrendous act of terrorism was perpetrated on the American people on September 11, 2001, and our lives will never be the same. If no other good comes out of the atrocities we witnessed on that fateful day, I hope that our country will begin to understand its place in history and its obligation as the most powerful nation on the face of the earth: to promote and defend the freedom to live and worship as one chooses. I hope that we will never take that freedom for granted again.

President Bush has made it perfectly clear that terrorist organizations, such as al Qaeda, are threats to the peace and stability of this planet that must be neutralized. That statement applies equally to a multitude of other terrorist groups and nations who harbor them as well.

On October 7, 2001, America began a war on terrorism with a military campaign against the oppressive Taliban regime in Afghanistan. While our success in Afghanistan was swift, the terrorist attacks against our troops in Kuwait, against Australian tourists in Bali, and Israelis in Kenya in 2002 have reminded us that this war is far from over.

Though our country has been successful since September 11, 2001, on the international front, I can assure you that both Congress and President Bush are also working diligently to ensure that no effort against terrorism will come at a price of constitutional liberties. We cannot sacrifice the freedoms for which so many Americans have died during the history of this country. Without taking proactive steps to eradicate terrorist activities, however, I fear that we fail in our responsibility and compromise those very liberties by allowing the forces of terrorism to reign supreme over the citizens of the United States.

I remain committed to America's campaign against terrorism, and I believe we are in this fight for all of the right reasons. I will not back down to terrorist threats, nor will I compromise the security of this country by returning to the sense of complacency exhibited in the past. With President Bush's leadership, I am confident that we will prevail in this endeavor, and that America, along with her allies, will punish those who seek to harm our people.

## Second Amendment Rights

The Second Amendment of the United States' Constitution reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." However, during my tenure in Congress, gun control advocates in the House and Senate have proposed a number of bills to ban all handguns, expand the power of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to regulate firearms, prohibit certain purchases of firearms, and require registration or permits for the possession of firearms and all ammunition. I oppose all attempts to ban firearms and impose burdensome regulations or taxes on law-abiding citizens.

There are already tens of thousands of federal, state and local gun laws on the books. The fact is, criminals do not obey the law. Five-sixths of repeat criminal offenders, who commit the vast majority of violent crimes, carry guns that were not obtained from a licensed firearms dealer. Washington, D.C., even has an outright ban on handguns, yet its crime and murder rates are consistently among the nation's highest. In addition, only 25 percent of the weapons used in violent crimes are firearms; the rest are knives, bats, cars—you name it. Our best means to combat violence is to focus on its root causes, rather than single out one of a myriad of weapons used to inflict it.

Let us also not forget that every year, on average, more than two million Americans prevent crimes against themselves and their homes because they have a gun. I have co-sponsored legislation that would authorize a person with a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm in one state to carry a concealed firearm in another state in accordance with the restrictions of that second state. I have also co-sponsored legislation and voted for an amendment that would exempt qualified law enforcement officers and retired officers from state laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms.

Our Founding Fathers recognized that all Americans have a right—and a duty—to protect themselves and their families from violent criminals. That is no less true now than it was in 1789, and I will continue to vote against all attempts to erode this fundamental right.

## Immigration

From 1892 to 1954, more than 12 million immigrants came to Ellis Island – mostly from Europe. Today, the face of immigration to America has changed, as more immigrants come from Mexico than any other country. The United States now has a richer, more diverse culture than almost any other nation in the world, and we should continue welcoming with open arms those who hope to build new, productive lives here in the harbor of our freedoms.

However, we must also send a message to the world that there is a right way and a wrong way to enter our country. I have worked in Congress to stop the flow of illegal aliens into America, supporting legislation to increase the number of border patrol agents and detention facilities, improve physical barriers at the border, increase penalties for document fraud and smuggling aliens, and streamline the appeals process to speed up the deportation of illegal aliens.

A huge part of the problem is the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) itself. Nearly 250,000 illegal aliens who have been ordered to be deported are now roaming our streets, and the INS is unable to find them. This poses a threat not only to our freedoms and economic health but also to our national security, particularly after the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks on our country.

At the same time, those immigrants who do play by the rules are often treated poorly by the INS and must navigate through an endless maze of red tape. At the end of September 2001, nearly 4.9 million petitions for naturalization were pending before the INS—a seven-fold increase since 1993. Getting a green card application adjudicated can take up to two years. The INS simply cannot handle its mountain of paperwork, while also enforcing our borders and laws.

The creation of a new Department of Homeland Security will help to solve this dilemma. This department will assume INS responsibilities, but will split the agency into two separate agencies – the Bureau of Border Security and the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. It has never been more obvious than now that we need a dedicated homeland security department to deal with securing our borders and rooting out criminal and illegal aliens. This new department, combined with solid leadership and management reforms, will improve our border security and make immigration services more efficient and customer-friendly.

## Pro-Family/Pro-Life

January 22, 2003, is the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark Supreme Court decision that legalized the atrocity of abortion nationwide. Since that day, over 40 million innocent lives have been taken, all in the name of “choice.”

I believe that a parent’s “choice” begins before the moment of conception, not afterwards. In fact, three of the founding members of the pro-abortion movement have since seen the folly of their arguments and changed their stances to pro-life: Norma McCorvey, the “Roe” in *Roe v. Wade*; Sandra Cano from *Doe v. Bolton*, which legalized late-term abortions; and Dr. Bernard Nathanson, who co-founded the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL).

Congress should enact an amendment to the Constitution that protects life that makes it clear that the 14th Amendment’s protections apply to unborn children. I also support legislation that bans partial birth abortions once and for all.

We in Congress must continue our efforts to enact legislation that protects the unborn and continues the advancement of the pro-life movement. I support President Bush’s efforts to end all federal funding of abortions, and I will support legislation in Congress that furthers his goals. The very sanctity of human life is at stake.

## Budget

Much has changed in the United States of America since the start of the year 2001, and that certainly includes the Federal government's budget. At that time, the Federal government's budget had been balanced for several years running – thanks in large part to the Republican majorities in House and Senate beginning in the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress – and was looking at significant surpluses well into the future.

Events that followed, including an economic slow-down and the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, contributed to a lower level of revenues than anticipated. At the same time, President Bush needed – and received from the Congress – more new funding to protect our Homeland. These unexpected developments contributed to alter the Federal government's current budget significantly, and future budgets as well.

The events of September 11<sup>th</sup> forced us to realize our nation's vulnerability to terrorist attacks and have thus changed the focus of our spending priorities for the future. The United States government is now obligated to provide necessary increases in funding for domestic security and national defense. America must now, more than ever, tighten her belt and spend money on programs that are essential to the protection and security of all Americans.

This is my commitment to America – I will fight to increase freedom for Americans and to strengthen families, not government. The key to our success in balancing the budget was limiting spending growth and minimizing the creation of new entitlement programs. We learned in dramatic fashion the real difference that a philosophy of less government, lower taxes, and more freedom can make when we put that plan into action, and I will continue to support fiscally-responsible policies in the future as well.



## Free Trade

The United States of America is one of the world's greatest success stories with respect to freedom and prosperity, due in large part to our open markets. Open markets mean wider choices and lower prices for businesses and consumers, as well as more vigorous competition, which serves to encourage greater productivity.

But the case for free trade goes beyond economic efficiency. The freedom to trade is a basic human liberty, and its exercise across political borders unites people in peaceful cooperation and mutual prosperity. That's why I have always supported proposals to expand our trading opportunities and will continue to do so in the future.

To its credit, the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress approved historic trade expansion legislation, the 2002 Trade Act, and it became Public Law when President Bush signed it on August 6, 2002. The key element of this legislation was its language granting the President the authority to negotiate trade agreements on behalf of the United States (commonly known as "trade promotion authority" or "TPA"), and have the Congress vote to approve these agreements in an up-or-down vote. Opponents of free trade resisted this proposal, as they wanted Congress to have the opportunity to modify such trade agreements. But the President's ability to successfully negotiate vital new trade agreements is contingent upon our trading partners believing that the agreements the President makes won't be subsequently changed in Congress. I supported the President's efforts to enact this legislation, and this legislation's enactment is one of the President's most powerful accomplishments.

At the close of the year 2002, there were more than 130 preferential trade agreements globally, and the United States was a party to only two of them. The European Union had completed 27 free trade agreements and was negotiating an additional 15. Mexico, alone, negotiated new trade agreements with 25 countries. With the newly-granted TPA, the Bush Administration will now be able to work towards negotiating trade agreements that will allow the U.S., and its manufacturers and consumers, to benefit from a multitude of exciting new trading opportunities.

In our State, Georgia's exporters face trade barriers in such sectors as information technology, civil aircraft and parts, paper products, and chemicals. TPA will help the U.S. Trade Representative remove those barriers, which should boost Georgia's economy and provide job security for thousands of Georgians whose work depends on growing exports.

TPA is also good news for Georgia's entrepreneurs and small businesses. The number of Georgia companies exporting increased 79 percent from 1992 to 1998. Also, more than 82 percent of Georgia's 7,335 companies that export are small- and medium-sized businesses. With TPA, the number of Georgia companies that export goods could skyrocket.

America must return to our tradition of global leadership for expanded free trade, and not retreat into the mistaken protectionism of the past. We must work to open markets, eliminate tariffs and barriers, and ensure that our nation remains at the forefront of global economic success.

## 21st-Century Water Policy

Water resources managers will be faced with unavoidable, life-threatening challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and we must prepare for these challenges now through extensive research and coordination of objectives among all levels of water management – federal, state, local, and the private sector. In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, I introduced legislation to begin this process and will introduce similar legislation in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.

All humans, plants, and animals depend on clean, fresh water for survival, yet 97 percent of the earth's water is saline. Two-thirds of the earth's fresh water is frozen in glaciers and the polar ice caps, leaving only one percent of the earth's water to serve all human beings, as well as all of the earth's plant and animal needs. Projections of future population growth and the resulting demand for increased water resources forecast imminent water shortages. The United States' water resources will be appropriated to their fullest capacity in the coming decades, and current water supplies will prove inadequate.

While floods plague some regions of the country, droughts in other regions affect the lives of countless Americans. We have limited the amount of water allowed to circulate through our toilets. We have restricted outdoor water usage to specific days and times. Given these current restrictions, we must begin a coordinated effort to prepare for future water shortages now, before we are forced to limit our showers to three per week and to prohibitively restrict the water required to feed our nation.

The traditional methods of capturing and distributing fresh water within the United States will not be sufficient 20 years from now. Currently, roughly 50 trillion gallons of water fall on Georgia each year, yet our lakes are growing dangerously low, our citizens are subject to stringent water restrictions, and our aquifers are being pumped dry. Why? Because we do not effectively capture Georgia's rainfall before it evaporates or runs off into the ocean. We must research new technologies, such as aquifer recharge, desalination, efficient irrigation techniques, recycled wastewater, wetlands creation, and more in order to capture and store water for future usage.

Currently, a number of programs exist to manage water on the federal level. Additionally, each state has its own water management agencies. And each community has water supply, management, and treatment facilities. Unfortunately, there is very little communication, and much less coordination, among the thousands of water management agencies across the U.S. The hundreds of thousands of workers devoted to water resources management in the public and private sector lack a comprehensive strategy to guide their actions. Furthermore, officials desiring to create new water programs on the local level face federal bureaucratic challenges, federal regulatory boundaries, and red tape at every turn.

We must ensure coordination, reduce duplication, and eliminate the complications that local water entities face when working to effectively develop their water resources. To that end, I introduced legislation to create a commission charged with researching and recommending to Congress a comprehensive water strategy to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century water needs. My bill would create the "21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Policy Commission" to study all aspects of water management on the federal, state, local, and private levels and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water policy that:

- Ensures an adequate supply of fresh water for U.S. citizens over the next 50 years;
- Does not place increased mandates on state and local governments;
- Eliminates duplication and conflict among governmental agencies;

- Considers all available technologies for increasing water supply efficiently, while safeguarding the environment;
- Recommends means of capturing excess water for future droughts; and
- Suggests financing options for public works projects.

Based upon the recommendations of the “21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Policy Commission,” Congress and the President can work together to enact a comprehensive water strategy to prepare for future water shortages. This strategy must coordinate water management efforts on all levels, without encroaching on state and local officials’ authority. It must offer guidelines that support coordination of water management agencies across community and state lines. And it must reduce the red tape faced by local communities desiring to take action to meet their water challenges.

Between 1940 and 1990, fresh water withdrawals around the world increased by a factor of four. Meanwhile, contamination by pollutants decreased the world’s supply of fresh water. As the earth’s population continues to grow, water shortages threaten to strike the U.S. in the next few decades. The irrigation necessary to produce food for our growing population will increase. The drinking water required to satiate growing urban populations will increase. However, our supply of fresh water will not increase, unless we begin to invest in new approaches to water management now.

The engineering expertise exists to ensure future Americans’ access to fresh water. However, we need a comprehensive strategy to manage the planning and interagency coordination necessary to implement this expertise. The “21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Policy Commission Act” is fundamental to meeting these objectives. We must no longer be reactive when faced with water emergencies. We must act now to face future emergencies proactively. Providing all Americans with fresh water is not a partisan issue. It is a matter of life and death for the future of the United States.

## Ensuring the Future of the CDC

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, houses some of the most highly-accomplished health researchers and scientists in the world--as well as some of the most dangerous, highly-classified biochemical substances and communicable diseases in the world. One would, therefore, assume that its facilities in Atlanta were some of the most secure, high-tech buildings in our country. If so, one would be sadly mistaken. The CDC's facilities and infrastructure are decrepit and overcrowded, which poses a threat not only to our scientists and administrators who work in the buildings but also to the entire United States of America.

In fact, in 1958, then-Congressman John Fogarty (D-RI) wrote President Eisenhower and described the CDC's facilities at that time. He wrote, "When I say that conditions are deplorable I have in mind the dilapidated wood frame structures occupied at Chamblee... That federal employees are required to work in such firetraps is, in my opinion, inexcusable." More than four decades later, these facilities have further deteriorated due to neglect and inadequate funding. We would certainly not require the U.S. Army to engage in a massive ground campaign using horses, so why should we expect the CDC to do 21st-century research in facilities that were inadequate in the mid-20th century?

I believe it is imperative that we act now to expedite the completion of CDC modernization and bring the CDC into the 21st century. Following the tragic September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, I introduced legislation in the House to authorize a significant increase in appropriations for critical CDC construction and renovation projects. This legislation would allow the CDC to complete its renovation plans in half the time originally estimated.

The Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee agreed to include my request for a significant increase in funding for the CDC in their bipartisan bioterrorism bill, "The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001." I was pleased with the inclusion of this sorely-needed increase in the bill, and the Chairman later stated that "due to your leadership and persistence, [The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act] includes several critical provisions relating to CDC, including new authorizations of \$300 million for each of the next two fiscal years to accelerate significantly the planned construction and upgrading of facilities at CDC's various campuses, and new multi-year contracting authority to facilitate such an acceleration."

President Bush signed the final version of this legislation into law, authorizing \$2.9 billion to respond to bioterrorism attacks and other public health emergencies—including my request for \$600 million for facilities construction and renovation at the CDC in Atlanta. But the fight to secure funding for the CDC isn't over yet. I will continue to fight for increased funding for the CDC's facilities in the appropriations process, until it achieves the level of safety, security, and professionalism worthy of its monumental mission.

## Education

I have visited hundreds of schools throughout Georgia during my tenure in Congress, and at nearly every place I've visited, teachers, administrators, and parents have asked me to fight for real education reform. They did not send me to Washington, D.C. to increase the federal government's role in their lives; they sent me to fight for returning education funding and control back to local communities within the states—and to families.

I have long believed that Georgia's parents and local school boards, not Washington, D.C.-based bureaucrats, are best able to decide what their children should be taught and how education dollars should be spent. Every child must have the opportunity to pursue the American Dream. Making them to attend failing schools robs them of this chance.

I am happy to report that Congress has taken the first step to improve educational opportunities for all students by enacting President Bush's initiative, No Child Left Behind Act (PL 107-110). This legislation offers parents more choices about their child's education and holds schools accountable through standardized state testing and other methods to ensure that they are providing our children with the education they deserve.

This law also provides the following: offers students the opportunity to choose a public or charter school that fits his or her needs; gives children with special needs additional resources to enhance their quality of education; forces states to test student performance in schools and inform parents so they can make better decisions about their child's education; and equips failing schools with a plan of action to improve the educational environment for all students.

I pledge to work with my colleagues in Congress to continue to enhance local control over education. Our country cannot afford to fail in our responsibility to educate every child, and I believe that President Bush's plan will make great strides in ensuring a bright future for our country.

## Environment

Our nation has a duty to ensure that clean air, unpolluted streams and lakes, and other precious natural resources are available for generations to come.

In the next half-century, one of the biggest challenges our country will face is finding enough fresh water to sustain our booming population. I have worked for many years to research this problem and find real, workable solutions, and on December 20, 2001, I introduced legislation to begin this process.

Likewise, we must focus on developing and promoting the various forms of safe, renewable energy sources available in the United States. Expanding research on hydrogen fuels, biofuel systems, and solar power systems, as well as an increased reliance on nuclear power, will improve the quality of both our air and water.

We must also strive to preserve biodiversity. The multitude of species and vast resources of our land are a large part of what makes our country great. I believe that we can effectively protect endangered species while at the same time safeguarding property rights, preserving local control, and fostering economic progress. I support the preservation of farmlands, wetlands, and hunting grounds through the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wetlands Reserve Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, among others, and I have supported funding to preserve endangered animals around the world.

While we strive to protect the environment, we must also continue to promote economic growth, which makes careful stewardship of our environment possible. Only through a balanced approach to ecological preservation and economic stability can we maintain and embrace this great country's natural resources.

## Tax Relief

So many in politics support tax cuts because they want to quit taking so much of your money and give that money back to you. I am one of those, and that is a laudable goal.

But there are additional reasons to support tax cuts that may be even more powerful: smaller government and economic growth.

Government is driven by spending. Every agency, every department, and every commission is driven to justify its existence by doing more; and nine times out of ten when someone suggests “doing more” it is code for “spending more.”

My passion is to reduce the size of government. I don’t believe that government needs to do more overall; I believe it does too much already.

But when the government generates surpluses, it does not have a bank into which it deposits those dollars. Government does not have a mattress into which it stuffs those dollars. Rather, those surplus dollars simply sit...and I can guarantee you that it doesn’t take long for someone to come along and find a good way to spend those dollars.

If we could use those dollars to pay down debt, I would absolutely support it. If we could save those dollars in an account for a rainy day, I would support that. But often, we cannot do either of these things, and those dollars get spent...and government grows. Following the stagnant economy of the late 1970s, President Reagan believed that by reducing tax rates and improving economic incentives, his Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 would increase the flow of resources into production, boost economic growth, and increase revenues to the U.S. Treasury. In fact, these tax cuts doubled revenues to the U.S. Treasury, but Congress spent the revenues and more. Even President Clinton’s Council of Economic Advisors admitted in 1994 that “it is undeniable that the sharp reduction in taxes in the early 1980s was a strong impetus to economic growth.”

Tax cut opponents generally bash tax cuts for eroding the surplus. I’ve got a secret for those folks: tax cuts are designed to erode the surplus and grow the economy. If the government is collecting too much money, we have an obligation to stop and to return those dollars to the people from whom we took them. A smaller surplus is not bad thing; it is the intended consequence of tuning government receipts to be equal to government needs.

As you know, I support the FairTax—a national retail sales tax. The FairTax will end the debate over tax credits and deductions forever, and it will end the debates over tax cuts for some over tax cuts for others. The FairTax treats all Americans exactly the same, and in doing so it protects the poor, eliminates the IRS, and abolishes tax returns for all Americans. The FairTax gets the government out of your life yet continues to provide the necessary receipts to keep the government running.

I support the FairTax above all other tax cut and tax reform plans, and I encourage you to look at the FairTax section for more information on the revolutionary plan. But while we are working to make the FairTax a reality, I will continue to support those tax cuts that prevent the government from spending too much, prevent the government from growing too much, and return your hard-earned money to you.



## Small Business

Small businesses are the heart of the American economy. America's 25 million small businesses employ more than 50 percent of the private work force, generate more than half of the nation's gross domestic product and are the principal source of new jobs in the U.S. economy. As such, I cannot do enough to help these businesses succeed.

As a supporter of smaller government, I do not generally support expanding the size and scope of government. My work with small businesses is no exception. My focus, then, is two-fold: to put constituents in touch with the resources already available from the Federal government and to curb the government regulations that burden these businesses and slow our economic engine.

If you simply want the government out of your life so that you can run your business according to your standards, then I encourage you to write to me and let me know. I am committed to getting the government out of your life. With every new Federal law, dollars come out of your production and go into your compliance. What has become of American business that tax attorneys and compliance officers are replacing production managers and salespeople?

My commitment to you is that I will continue to stand up to those who want to control you, I will continue to fight for those who want to tax you, and—for better or worse—I will continue to oppose those who want to give some of you advantages at the expense of others. You have the vision, you have the work ethic, and you have the passion. With government out of your way, you are bound to succeed.

My door is always open and my staff is always available. Whether you are having problems with a Federal agency or you have suggestions about how we can operate government better, I hope that you will call on me. Together, we will grow America's economy, not her government.